

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A vertical structure, having both functions of a seat and a partition screen, comprising:

a pair of upright supports (1);

a quadrilateral articulated frame (2) composed of rods (2a, 2b, 2c), a lower pair of the rods respectively hinged to the upright supports at a lower part of the upright supports, and an upper pair of the rods respectively hinged to the upright supports at an upper part of the upright supports; and

an upper panel and a lower panel (3) attached the frame (2),

said frame (2) being adapted to allow the vertical structure to act i) as a seat with the lower and the upper pairs of the rods (2b) of the frame (2) oriented perpendicular to the upright supports (1) and with the upper panel being a seat backrest and the lower panel being a seat bottom, and ii) as a partition screen with the lower and the upper pairs of rods (2b) and the upright supports coinciding and the upper panel (3) and the lower panel being coplanar,

wherein the lower and the upper pairs of the rods (2b) of the frame are hinged to the upright supports (1) by pins (9, 11),

wherein the pair of upright supports (1) remain vertical and non-displaced during operation of the structure while the frame is displaced between a first configuration acting as the seat and a second configuration acting as the partition screen, and

wherein said frame (2) is positioned with the lower and the upper pairs of the rods (2b) oriented perpendicular to the upright supports (1) and with the upper panel being a seat backrest and the lower panel being a seat bottom, the lower panel is accessible from three vertical sides by the no further panels attached between the rods of the frame other than said upper and lower panels.

12. (previously presented) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 11, wherein the frame (2) has end stops (7) mounted on the rods (2b), which abut against the upright supports when the seat position is reached.

13. (previously presented) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

return springs (20) provided between the frame (2) and the upright supports (1), disposed to cause the automatic return from the seat position to the partition screen position.

14. (previously presented) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 11, wherein balance weights hidden in the upright supports or as extensions of the rods (2b) of the frame (2) are disposed to cause the automatic return from the seat position to the partition screen position.

15. (cancelled).

16. (previously presented) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 12, wherein lower pair of the rods (2b) is hinged with a stationary rod (15), the stationary rod connected transversely to the upright supports.

17. (previously presented) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 11, wherein the panel (3) is a single piece, which is secured between the rods (2c) and the stationary rod (15).

18. (previously presented) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 17, wherein the panel (3) is made of one selected from the group consisting of fabric, a synthetic material, and materials adapted to withstand the weight of a person.

19. (previously presented) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 11, wherein the upright supports are bent through an essentially right angle, and joined together by a plate (19) with elements for direct fastening thereof to the floor.

20. (previously presented) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 19, wherein the upright supports are straight and are configured to be fastened to the floor by one of anchor plates and flanges.

21. (previously presented) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

hydraulic pistons provided between the frame (2) and the frame (1) disposed to cause the automatic return from the seat position to the partition screen position.

22. (previously presented) The vertical structure of claim 11, wherein, with the vertical structure configured as a seat, i) the upper panel is vertical to the lower panel and ii) the upper panel is facing and completely spaced apart from the upright supports by the upper pair of the rods extending away from the upright supports and the lower pair of the rods extending away from the uprights supports.

23. (cancelled).

24. (currently amended) ~~The vertical structure of claim 23~~

A vertical structure, reconfigurable between a seat configuration and a partition screen configuration, comprising:

a pair of upright supports (1) extending in a first vertical position;

a quadrilateral articulated frame (2) composed of rods (2a, 2b, 2c), a lower pair of the rods respectively hinged to the upright supports at a lower part of the upright supports, and an upper pair of the rods respectively hinged to the upright supports at an upper part of the upright supports;

an upper panel (3) attached to an upper part of the frame (2);

a lower panel (3) attached to a lower part of the frame; and

connection parts moving the frame, the upper panel, and the lower panel to between

i) a first position, with the lower panel providing a seat, with the lower pair of the rods (2b) of the frame (2) oriented perpendicular to the upright supports (1) and with the upper panel being a seat backrest and the lower panel being a seat bottom, and the upright supports being in the first vertical position, and

ii) a second position, with the upper panel and the lower panel both positioned vertically and providing a vertical partition screen, with

a) the upper and lower pairs of the rods (2b) and the upright supports (1) coinciding,

b) a first vertical plane defined by the upper panel (3) and a second vertical plane defined by the lower panel being coplanar, and

c) the upright supports being in the first vertical position, wherein, in the first position,

i) the upper panel is vertical to the lower panel, and

ii) the upper panel is facing and completely spaced apart from the upright supports by the upper pair of the rods extending away from the upright supports and the lower pair of the rods extending away from the uprights supports, and

iii) four connecting edges of the lower panel define a closed rectangle, the upper panel defines a first vertical side

extending up from a first edge of the lower panel, and the other three edges of the lower panel provide free access to the lower panel as the seat bottom by the rods of the frame being free of any panels other than said upper and lower panels.

25. (currently amended) ~~A vertical structure as claimed in claim 11~~

A vertical structure, having both functions of a seat and a partition screen, comprising:

a pair of upright supports (1);

a quadrilateral articulated frame (2) composed of rods (2a, 2b, 2c), a lower pair of the rods respectively hinged to the upright supports at a lower part of the upright supports, and an upper pair of the rods respectively hinged to the upright supports at an upper part of the upright supports; and

an upper panel and a lower panel (3) attached the frame (2),

said frame (2) being adapted to allow the vertical structure to act i) as a seat with the lower and the upper pairs of the rods (2b) of the frame (2) oriented perpendicular to the upright supports (1) and with the upper panel being a seat backrest and the lower panel being a seat bottom, and ii) as a partition screen with the lower and the upper pairs of rods (2b) and the upright supports coinciding and the upper panel (3) and the lower panel being coplanar,

wherein four connecting edges of the lower panel define a closed rectangle, the upper panel defines a first vertical side extending up from a first edge of the lower panel, and the other three edges of the lower panel provide free access to the lower panel as the seat bottom by the rods of the frame being free of any panels other than said upper and lower panels.

26. (currently amended) A vertical structure as claimed in claim [[23]] 24,

wherein said frame (2) is positioned with the lower and the upper pairs of the rods (2b) oriented perpendicular to the upright supports (1) and with the upper panel being a seat backrest and the lower panel being a seat bottom, the lower panel is accessible from three vertical sides by the no further panels attached between the rods of the frame other than said upper and lower panels.